



IDAHO POTATOES

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IDAHO: Potato growers in the Gem State are expected to harvest 328,000 acres in 2005, 25,000 acres less than the acres harvested in 2004. Planted acres, of 330,000, are down 7.0 percent from a year ago. This is the lowest potato acreage in Idaho since 1986. In the 10 Southwest counties, planted and harvested acres are estimated at 24,000 acres, down 1,000 acres from 2004. Acres for harvest in the State's other counties are expected to total 304,000 acres from 306,000 planted acres. This represents a 7.3 percent decrease from last year's 328,000 acres harvested from 330,000 planted acres.

Planting of Idaho's 2005 potato crop was interrupted by wet weather during May. Development of potatoes planted before the wet weather is ahead of normal, while fields planted afterward are behind.

United States:

Potato growers across the United States have planted an estimated 1.11 million acres of potatoes in all four seasons this year, down 7 percent from last year and the lowest since 1866 when record keeping began. Area for harvest, forecasted at 1.09 million acres, is also down 7 percent from a year ago and the lowest on record. Fall potato planted acreage is down 7 percent from the 2004 crop year. The summer potato production forecast is down 12 percent from last season. Winter and spring production forecasts are being carried forward from earlier estimates. Winter production is up 5 percent but spring production is down 20 percent from last year.

Fall Potatoes:

Area planted to fall potatoes for 2005 is estimated at 970,400 acres, down 7 percent from last year and 12 percent below 2003. Harvested acres are forecast at 955,700, down 7 percent from 2004 and 12 percent below two years ago. This is the lowest planted and harvested acres since 1957. This reduction is due in part to economic pressures, industry acreage reduction programs, and inclement weather at planting.

Western States' potato acreage is estimated at 606,200 acres planted this year, down 6 percent from last year and 9 percent below 2003. Planting was delayed in most western States due to wet conditions. Idaho growers dropped their planted acreage 7 percent from last year. Washington producers pulled back 4 percent from a year ago. Colorado growers voluntarily reduced acreage 10 percent this year for both water conservation and economic reasons. Planted acres in Oregon were dropped 5 percent. This reduction is due in part to the closure of a processing plant in the Columbia Basin. California's fall potato acres are down 5 percent and Nevada's acres decreased 18 percent. Planted acres for Montana are up 3 percent. New Mexico summer potatoes were combined with fall potatoes for 2005. Acres are up 2 percent from 2004 for all of New Mexico's potato acres.

Central States planted an estimated 273,600 acres of fall potatoes this year, down 6 percent from last year and 18 percent below two years ago. Cool, wet weather slowed planting in most central States. North Dakota's planted acreage decreased 14 percent and is the lowest number of planted acres since 1952. This reduction is due in part to a decrease in processing acres. Planted acres dropped 9 percent in Nebraska, 3 percent in Ohio, and 2 percent in Minnesota from a year ago. Michigan and Wisconsin growers planted the same amount of acres as last year.

Growers in Eastern States have planted an estimated 90,600 acres of fall potatoes this year, down 8 percent from last year and 14 percent below the 2003 acreage. Maine's planted acreage is estimated at 55,500 acres, down 13 percent from last year. Planted potato acreage in Pennsylvania is down 4 percent, while producers in New York planted 3 percent more acres. Massachusetts and Rhode Island's planted acreages are unchanged from 2004. Cool, wet spring weather delayed planting and has slowed crop progress but crop quality is expected to be good in these New England States.

William R Myer
Director

Brad Early
Statistician

Fall Potatoes: Acres Planted and Acres Harvested, by States

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
<i>1,000 Acres</i>				
California	7.6	7.2	7.6	7.2
Colorado	65.0	58.2	64.3	58.0
IDAHO	355.0	330.0	353.0	328.0
SW (10 Counties)	25.0	24.0	25.0	24.0
Other Counties	330.0	306.0	328.0	304.0
Indiana 1/	3.4		3.2	
Maine	63.5	55.5	62.0	54.5
Massachusetts	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6
Michigan	43.0	43.0	42.0	42.0
Minnesota	47.0	46.0	44.0	42.0
Montana	10.7	11.0	10.6	10.9
Nebraska	22.0	20.0	21.6	19.6
Nevada	6.7	5.5	6.7	5.5
New Mexico 2/	4.0	5.3	4.0	5.3
New York	20.0	20.5	19.2	20.1
North Dakota	105.0	90.0	101.0	86.0
Ohio	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.5
Oregon	37.0	35.0	37.0	35.0
Malheur County	5.2	4.5	5.2	4.5
Other Counties	31.8	30.5	31.8	30.5
Pennsylvania	12.0	11.5	11.0	11.0
Rhode Island	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Washington	160.0	154.0	159.0	154.0
Wisconsin	71.0	71.0	70.0	70.0
Total Fall	1,039.7	970.4	1,022.8	955.7

1/ Estimates discontinued in 2005.

2/ Summer potatoes combined with fall in 2005.

Fall Potatoes: Acres Planted for Certified Seed Potatoes, by States ^{1/}

State	2004 Crop			2005	State	2004 Crop			2005
	Entered for	Certified	Percent Certified			Entered for Certification	Certified	Percent Certified	
	<i>Acres</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Acres</i>		<i>Acres</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Alaska	130	86	66	90	Nebraska	6,592	5,592	85	5,707
California	557	524	94	525	New York	786	785	100	525
Colorado	14,884	12,345	83	15,300	North Dakota	16,746	16,600	99	
IDAHO	36,924	36,729	99	30,000	Oregon	3,216	3,216	100	2,250
Maine	13,533	13,523	100	11,000	Pennsylvania	284	284	100	260
Michigan	2,300	2,221	97	2,300	Washington	2,490	2,488	100	2,350
Minnesota	10,552	10,100	96	10,000	Wisconsin	8,515	8,150	96	8,489
Montana	9,758	9,758	100	10,100	TOTAL	127,267	122,401	96	98,896

1/ Data supplied by State seed certification officials.

2/ Acres certified not available for the 2005 crop.